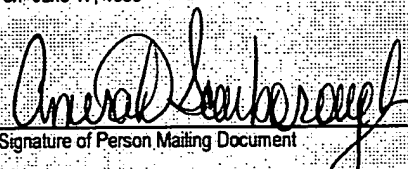


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Amirah Scarborough
Name of Person Mailing Document


Signature of Person Mailing Document

INVENTORS: Robert E. Springer
David W. Hill
Susan Moffatt
John D. Swansey

PC KEYBOARD WITH DETACHABLE SMARTCARD SECURITY DEVICE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent document has been filed concurrently with and is cross referenced to assignee's related patent specifications Serial Number _____ (RP9-99-602).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to a personal computer keyboard combined with desktop personal computer accessory for accessing data and operation of a personal computer, and more particularly to a keyboard having attached thereto a smartcard security device.

2. Description of the Problem

Personal computer desktop clutter is a constant problem. Accessory devices
often utilized with personal computers (PCs) often times are ^{stored} stored or placed
alongside or in close proximity to the PC but are not ^{confined} defined or limited to an area where
they are readily accessible and where they are least likely to be damaged and can
maintain their integrity without the likelihood of becoming contaminated through normal
usage and debris which is often times present on the surface of a desktop or on or near
a keyboard utilized with a PC.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a purpose of this invention to provide a readily accessible PC accessory in a
secure and readily identifiable space and in close relationship with a PC operator. The
accessory is attachable to the keyboard and preferably on the backside of the keyboard
in a location which does not interfere with the operation of the PC or the keyboard by
the operator. Preferably the accessory device, such as a Smartcard security kit, is
attached in a semi-permanent manner in order for it to ^{be} easily attached and detached.
A Smartcard is common in the marketplace and units which receive these are likewise
common and are known to include the necessary structure, intelligence and circuitry to
provide the functions in common and wide use. The card may be used for banking
online allowing the user to make secure transactions without using a credit card. It may
also be used as a security device, which along with a password, could secure the
software and/or operation of the PC or any of its functional components. The
attachment location for the accessory is preferably on the far or back side of the
keyboard and conveniently disposed at either end of the keyboard. The attachment of
the kit or other accessory is accomplished by, for example, a clip which can snap ^{on} ~~on~~
and ^{off} ~~off~~ from the keyboard readily with ease and without taking a great deal of time or
effort and in such a way that it can be accomplished in an intuitive manner without the

A operator needing to study or closely observed the accomplishment of the task by the operator's self.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A Some of the purposes of the invention ~~having been others~~ will appear as the following description proceeds, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

5 **Figure 1** is a perspective view of a PC accessory device with an attachment clip for attaching to a PC keyboard, according to the principles of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a back elevational view of the PC accessory device with the attachment clip;

Figure 3 is a view of the back side of a PC keyboard with the PC accessory with the attachment clip for connecting to access aperture in the keyboard;

Figure 4 is a view of the PC keyboard and PC accessory device attached to the keyboard according to the principles of the present invention; and

Figure 5 is a front view of the PC keyboard and PC accessory device attached to the keyboard according to the principles of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

While the present invention will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the present invention are shown, it is to be understood at the outset of the description which follows that persons of skill in the appropriate arts may modify the invention here described while still achieving the favorable results of this invention. Accordingly, the description which follows is to be understood as being a broad, teaching disclosure directed to persons of skill in the appropriate arts, and not limiting upon the present invention.

Figure 1 illustrates a PC Smartcard utility kit 10 which includes the Smartcard reader 12 and an attachment unit 14, illustrated in **Figure 1** as a clip device 16.

The Smartcard reader 12 has an outer case which defines a slot 18 for receiving a typical Smartcard, standard in the industry but not illustrated, and further defines a passage 20 for dressing an electrical cord connection between the PC Smartcard kit 10 and an electrical connection and jack in any PC circuit or unit. The clip device 16 is structured to slide upward, in the direction of arrow head 22, into the body or the outer case of Smartcard holder 12 and to be locked into place to dispose outwardly the two legs 24 and 26 of the clip 28 which are formed as part of the clip device 16. The clip device 16, as further illustrated in **Figure 2**, can, for example, be structured to lock into the backside of the Smartcard holder 12, but is also devised to be able to be disconnected, in favor of an alternate assembly which can replace the clip device 16, but function to secure the Smartcard holder 12 securely in place in close proximity of the keyboard 30, as illustrated in **Figure 3**, or to connect directly to a keyboard.

The attachment unit 14, as is illustrated in **Figures 1 and 2**, can be the clip device 16, or some other alternative embodiment such as a unit which includes a material suitable for securing fastening of the accessory or for providing a clinging or

holding ability, such as the material Velcro, to hold the accessory in position. The body or outer case of the accessory can be formed to define an area for placement or location of the alternative attachment material or structure. The clip device 16, can be ^{suitably} formed of a compatible plastic substance in order to provide for flexibility of the legs 24 and 26 of the clip device 16 as the legs are inserted or extracted from openings or slots, such as keyboard openings 32 and 34, as shown in **Figure 3** and provided for receiving clip device 16 legs 24 and 26, respectively. Although plastic materials provide for ease of manufacturing, low cost, esthetic considerations, like color and texture, other materials can provide for like or suitable attachment mechanisms. Metal, fabric, adhesive, magnetic fabrications are just some ^{possible} ~~possible~~ alternatives.

In **Figure 3**, arrow head 36 shows the direction and manner of attachment of the Smartcard utility kit 10 to the keyboard 30. The respective legs 24 and 26 of the clip device 16, are guided into the accommodating openings 32 and 34 at the back side of the keyboard 30 and by design snap into place. However, it should be understood that by the very nature of the illustrated clip device 16 and its legs 24 and 26, the clip device 16 can be detached from the keyboard 30 without destruction or deterioration of either unit. This operation can be accomplished an endless number of times. Likewise it should be understood that alternate attachment assemblies can be provided to dress the accessory to the keyboard as provided for by the subject invention.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the Smartcard utility kit 10 from the rear of the keyboard 30 and from the front of the keyboard 30 and show the units properly combined and dressed one to the other.

In the drawings and specifications there has been set forth a preferred embodiment of the invention and, although specific terms are used, the description thus given uses terminology in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.